

Amendments to the Specification:

Please make the following amendments to the specification. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

Please replace the paragraph found on page 1, lines 10–18, of the application, with the following replacement paragraph:

This application incorporates by reference in their entirety for all purposes the following U.S. patent applications: Serial No. **10/716,719** [[]], filed November 19, 2003, **now U.S. Patent No. 7,090,676** titled ~~ADJUSTABLE BONE PLATES~~, and naming ~~Randall J. Huebner and Steven P. Horst as inventors~~; Serial No. **10/717,401** [[]], filed November 19, 2003, **now U.S. Patent No. 7,153,309** titled ~~GUIDE SYSTEM FOR BONE REPAIR DEVICES~~, and naming ~~Randall J. Huebner and Steven P. Horst as inventors~~; Serial No. **10/717,402** [[]], filed November 19, 2003, titled ~~DEFORMABLE BONE PLATES~~, and naming ~~Randall J. Huebner as inventor~~; and Serial No. **10/717,015** [[]], filed November 19, 2003, titled ~~BONE PLATES WITH SLOTS~~, naming ~~Randall J. Huebner as inventor~~.

Please replace the paragraph found on page 6, lines 10–20, of the application, with the following replacement paragraph:

Bone plates having adjustable joints, as described herein, may be attached to or otherwise associated with bone using any suitable method or procedure. For example, a surgeon may (1) select an appropriate plate, (2) reduce (set) any fracture(s) or other discontinuities in the bone (at least partially), (3) fasten the plate to opposite sides of the fracture using suitable fasteners, such as screws and/or wires, (4) adjust the shape of the plate to adjust reduction of the fracture, and (5) fix the shape, so that attached portions of the bone are fixed in position. These steps may be performed manually and/or mechanically, for example, using a guide system as described in the following patent application, which is incorporated herein by reference: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/717,401 [[____]], filed November 19, 2003, now U.S. Patent No. 7,153,309 titled ~~GUIDE SYSTEM FOR BONE REPAIR DEVICES~~, and naming ~~Randall J. Huebner and Steven P. Horst as inventors~~.

Please replace the paragraph found on page 13, lines 1–15, of the application, with the following replacement paragraph:

The openings may have any suitable shape and structure. Exemplary shapes may include circular, elliptical, rectangular, elongate, etc. The openings may include counterbores configured, for example, to receive a head of a bone screw. The openings may be threaded or nonthreaded, and each bone plate may include one or more threaded and/or nonthreaded openings. In some embodiments, the plates may include one or a plurality of elongate openings (slots) extending axially and/or transversely along each bone plate. The slots may include counterbores that provide compression when bone screws are advanced against the counterbores. Alternatively, or in addition, the slots may be used to adjust the position of bone plates and/or plate portions relative to bone before the plates are fully secured to the bone. Further aspects of openings or slots that may be suitable for pivotable bone plates are described in more detail in the following patent applications, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety for all purposes: PCT Patent Application Serial No. PCT/US02/18623, filed June 10, 2002; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/717,015 ([____]), filed November 19, 2003, ~~titled BONE PLATES WITH SLOTS~~, and naming Randall J. Huebner as inventor.

Please replace the paragraph found on page 18, lines 12–18, of the application, with the following replacement paragraph:

Further aspects of adjustable bone plates having pivotable and/or sliding joints (and/or deformable portions) are described in the Examples below and in the following patent applications, each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/716,719 [[____]], filed November 19, 2003, now U.S. Patent No. 7,090,676 titled ~~ADJUSTABLE BONE PLATES~~, and naming ~~Randall J. Huebner and Steven P. Horst as inventors~~; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/717,402 [[____]], filed November 19, 2003, titled ~~DEFORMABLE BONE PLATES~~, and naming ~~Randall J. Huebner as inventor~~.

Please replace the paragraph found on page 23, lines 1–12, of the application, with the following replacement paragraph:

One or more of the openings, such as openings 92, 94, may be elongate openings or slots. The slots may be disposed axially and/or transversely on the plate member(s). The slots may have reference marks 98 disposed adjacent the slots (see Figure 5). The reference marks may be configured to measure movement of the bone plate in the direction in which each slot extends. In some embodiments, the slots may be configured to permit axial and angular adjustment of the proximal plate member 82 with bone screws placed into bone from one or both of slots 92, 94, and before additional bone screws are placed through openings 90 and into bone. Further aspects of slots for positioning bone plates are included in the following patent application, which is incorporated herein by reference: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/717,015 ~~[[]]~~, filed November 19, 2003, ~~titled BONE PLATES WITH SLOTS, and naming~~ Randall J. Huebner as inventor.